

1787

Delegates gather in Philadelphia to draw up the Constitution of the United States

1796

English country doctor Edward Jenner administers his revolutionary cowpox-based vaccine for smallpox in Berkeley, Gloucestershire



1804

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's expedition sets out from St. Louis for the Pacific Coast, commissioned by Thomas Jefferson

1948

David Ben-Gurion declares Israel independent from British administration, Golda Meir one of the signatories



Trump receives flowers upon arrival



US President Donald Trump (C), US Ambassador To China David Perdue (center-R) escorted by China's Vice President Han Zheng (R) are greeted by Chinese youth upon arriving at Beijing Capital Airport in Beijing

Trump, Xi set for talks on Iran war, trade

AFP | Beijing, China

Leaving the White House yesterday, US President Donald Trump said he expected extensive discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the joint US-Israeli war with Iran, whose sanctioned oil exports are largely purchased by China.

He also downplayed disagreements, telling reporters that "I don't think we need any help with Iran" from China and that Xi had been "relatively good" on the topic.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Wednesday it "welcomes" Trump's visit and that "China stands ready to work with the United States... to expand cooperation and manage differences".

Yet Beijing is growing impatient for peace, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi urging his Pakistani counterpart on Tuesday to step up mediation efforts between Iran and the United States.

Trump and Xi are set to discuss extending a one-year tariff truce, which the two leaders reached during their last meeting in South Korea in October, although a deal is far from certain.

China's controls on rare earth



and agriculture exports are also expected to be on the menu.

The tense buildup to the summit was already visible on the streets of Beijing, with police monitoring major intersections and checking the ID cards of passengers on the metro, AFP journalists saw.

"It's definitely a big deal," said Wen Wen, a 24-year-old woman travelling from the eastern city of Nanjing, when

asked by AFP about Trump's visit.

While Trump said on Monday he would speak to Xi about US arms sales to Taiwan, the move marks a departure from historic US insistence that it will not consult Beijing on its support to the island.

His trip will be closely scrutinised by Taiwan and Asian allies for any sign of weakening US support.

Oil stocks dwindling at record pace: IEA

Global stocks were drawn down by a further 117 million barrels in April

AFP | Paris, France

Countries are tapping into oil inventories and strategic reserves at a "record pace" due to the "unprecedented" supply disruptions caused by the Middle East war, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

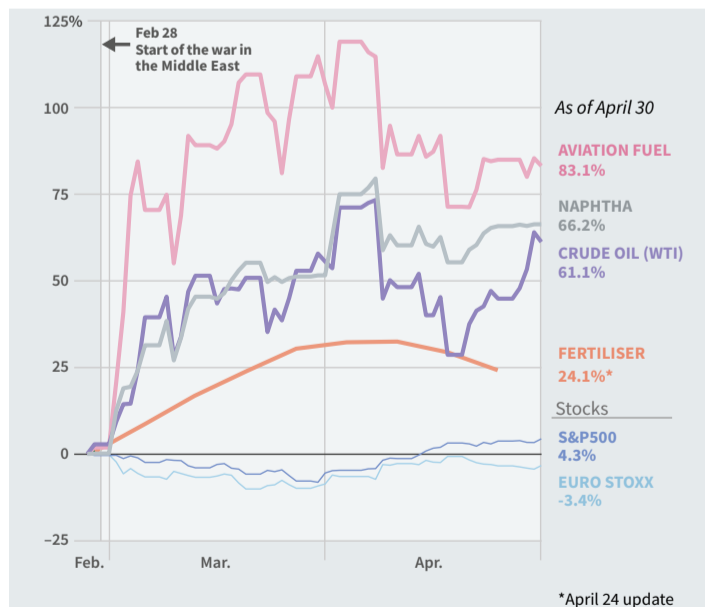
Global stocks were drawn down by a further 117 million barrels in April, the agency said, after a 129-million-barrel draw-down in March following the US and Israeli launch of attacks against Iran.

"Rapidly shrinking buffers amid continued disruptions may herald future price spikes ahead," it warned in its monthly report.

Tehran has effectively closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz to Gulf oil and gas exports, sending prices soaring and forcing nations to scramble for alternative supplies.

The IEA said in March that it would provide global markets with 400 million barrels from the emergency stocks of IEA members, of which around 164 million barrels has already been drawn.

"The pace of emergency stock releases picked up pace in April, with further volumes set to



PRICE HIKES OF CRUCIAL COMMODITIES SINCE START OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Percentage change since February 26

hit the market in the coming months," the agency said.

Fears of shortages are rising with the summer travel season approaching in the northern hemisphere, with airlines already warning of jet fuel shortages in a matter of weeks if supply disruptions persist.

"With global oil inventories

already drawing at a record clip, further price volatility appears likely ahead of the peak summer demand period," the agency said.

The agency now expects global demand to shrink by 2.4 million barrels per day (mb/d) in the second quarter, down from its forecast of a 3.5 mb/d before



US Marines with Maritime Raid Force rappelling out of an MH-60S Sea Hawk, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, during helicopter and roping sustainment training aboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli at sea

Lebanon says Israeli strikes on cars kill 12

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Israel intensified strikes on Lebanon yesterday with the health ministry reporting 12 people killed in attacks targeting cars, mostly south of Beirut, despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

the Mideast war erupted. "Higher prices, a deteriorating economic environment and

The fresh raids, which also targeted various areas of the country's south, came on the eve of a new round of direct negotiations between Lebanon and Israel in Washington brokered by the United States, as Hezbollah remains strongly opposed to the move.

demand-saving measures will further weigh on global oil consumption" going forward, it said.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Africa's continued exclusion from permanent representation in the Security Council is a historical injustice & indefensible. This is not about privilege or symbolism. This is about ensuring that the Council is fit for purpose & able to act with legitimacy and effectiveness.

@antonioguerres

02



The scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects that has been cleared by the Cabinet will further energy security, boost investment and create job opportunities for the youth. It will add strength to our efforts to strengthen the tech and innovation system as well.

@narendramodi

03



We discussed with President of Finland Alexander Stubb diplomatic efforts to end Russia's war against Ukraine and Europe's role in this process. Transatlantic unity on the path to peace is essential. We coordinated positions on further steps.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



A tribute of appreciation from a passenger repatriated in #Tenerife, #Spain, from the hantavirus-affected Hondius. I can only imagine the sigh of relief. Thank you, Spain.

@DrTedros

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